

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3358

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: CABINDA: ANGOLANS WARN FOREIGN POWERS NOT TO MEDDLE

1. IN TWO STATEMENTS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS THE ANGOLAN TRANSITION-AL GOVERNMENT HAS STRONGLY REITERATED ITS POSITION TO DEFEND CABINDA AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANGOLA AND ATTACKED FOREIGN MEDDLING IN THE ENCLAVE.

2. ON MARCH 19 THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL CARDOSO, SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMISSION AND ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, ISSUED A SHARPLY WORDED STATEMENT WARNING FOREIGN POWERS AGAINST BECOMING INVOLVED IN CABINDA. HE REFERRED TO RUMORS THAT A LARGE MILITARY FORCE IS IN PREPARATION OUTSIDE CABINDA AND HE CONDEMNED THE PLANS OF UNNAMED STATES TO BRING THE CABINDA MATTER BEFORE THE OAU. HE STRONGLY REITERATED PORTUGAL'S DETERMINATION TO DEFEND CABINDA, DIPLOMATICALLY AND MILITARILY, AS PART OF ANGOLA.

3. ON MARCH 22, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN CABINDA, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR N'GOLA KABANGU (FNLA) ATTACKED FRENCH AND CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. INTERESTS FOR "ENCOURAGING A DIVISION OF ANGOLA," AND

"ENCOURAGING A CIVIL WAR." HE LIT INTO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WITH PARTICULAR VEHEMENCE, REMINDING THEM OF THEIR OWN SEPARATIST PROBLEM IN BRITANNY AND TELLING THEM NOT TO INTERFERE HERE. HE WAS LESS TRUCULENT WITH THE U.S., MERELY REFERRING TO "INTERESTS IN NEW YORK" THAT ARE BENT UPON SEPARATING CABINDA FROM ANGOLA. HE STATED THAT ANGOLANS WOULD FIGHT TO MAINTAIN CABINDA AS PART OF ANGOLA.

4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS UNQUESTIONABLY POINTING THE FINGER AT ZAIRE AND THE CONGO FOR AIDING FLEC, AND FOR HAVING DESIGNS OF THEIR OWN ON CABINDA. KABANGU'S STATEMENT CAN BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE HEAT OFF MOBUTU BY NAMING INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED WHIPPING BOYS LIKE THE U.S. AND FRANCE AS THE CULPRITS IN CABINDA, WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A HINT THAT CLOSER-IN POWERS MIGHT BE MEDDLING. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT KABANGU'S ATTACK DOES NOT IMPLICATE USG IN CABINDA. I WILL SPEAK WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO REMIND HIM OF OUR POLICY AND TO SUGGEST THAT STATEMENTS LIKE HIS WORSEN AN ALREADY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION.

5. DURING THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, I TOLD HIM THAT STATEMENTS OF THE KIND MADE BY KABANGU HELP NO ONE. HE REPLIED THAT AS FNLA IS CONSTANTLY ACCUSED OF BEING IN THE PAY OF THE U.S. IT HAS TO OCCASIONALLY LASH OUT AT US IN ORDER TO ENHANCE ITS IMAGE.

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